

**Veronica DiFranco, Junior, Class of 2027****Reflection:**

For my chosen pilgrimage site, I selected The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel because of the calm, peaceful, and intimate environment in which it allowed me to rest with God. In this Chapel, I was able to focus my thoughts on prayer and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit, especially with the scriptural mosaic of Him above the altar. The photo I attached portrays the architecture of the altar in the Chapel. The crucifix is captivating, with lights directed to Our Lord and pillars that help isolate the presentation of His Sacrifice from the other eye-catching scenes in the sacred space. This really enabled me to center my undivided attention on God and talk to Him without distraction. I felt called to carry out a Work of Penance after reflecting in the Chapel on all that Jesus has given up for us. I was determined to give up an enjoyment of my own in order to feel closer to Him. I fasted from snacking, eating outside of three-square meals, for a week. Snacking is not a necessity, and I had been so used to it that I had become somewhat reliant on it, both mentally in my routine and physically, experiencing a feeling of wanting to fill my stomach. I learned to redirect that dependency on God as Saint Teresa of Avila stated, “God alone suffices.” I took this as my new motto, as I continue to try to pursue God above all else.

**Pilgrimage Site:**

It would be an incredible experience to visit Jerusalem and stand in the place where Jesus lived, preached, performed miracles, and sacrificed so much for humanity. Part of Jesus's gift to us is his dual nature to interact with the divine nature, we can pray and celebrate the mass anywhere. Jesus's human nature only came down in one location on earth, and it would be such a blessing to make myself familiar with the place where the birth of Christianity started. Travelling where his story unfolded would strengthen my faith in my ability to share it with others.

